2852 #4

03500.015028

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KATSUHIKO HARA

Application No.: 09/749,731

Filed: December 28, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING

APPARATUS AND METHOD

October 29, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2852

RECEIVED

NOV 0 5 2002

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 5,485,287 U.S. Patent 5,999,654 Germany 43-02-391 Germany 44-08-522 Europe 893,766 Japan 61-164377

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed. Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts

included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report lists Great Britain 2,264,022 as an English language counterpart to German 4,302,391; a copy of that document is enclosed and is also listed on Form PTO-1449. The European Search Report does not list English language counterparts of German 4,408,522, but an English language abstract has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No.

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO

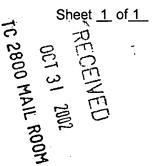
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FORM PTO 1449 (PE VO	ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.015028	APPLICATION NO. 09/749,731		
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OF THE APPLICANT						
_			December 28, 2000	G	GROUP 2852	
		TRADEN'	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FP	5,485,287	1/16/96	Nakamura, et al.	358	426	
H	5,999,654	12/7/99	Toujima, et al.	382	232	
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			FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS			
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
40	4,408,522	9/22//94	Germany			Abstract
KU	4,302,391	8/5/93	Germany			Abstract
160	893,766	1//27/99	Europe			
100	61-164377	7/25/86	Japan			Abstract
	2,264,022	8/11/93	Great Britain			
		OTHER DOCUME	ENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		
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EXAMINER DATE CONSIDERED						

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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.